

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE ABSTRACT AND SPECIFICATION

The abstract and specification have been amended to correct minor errors of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the abstract specification be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 have been amended to better comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112 and to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention. The informalities pointed out by the Examiner with respect to claims 3 and 4 have been corrected, proper antecedent basis has been provided for all claimed elements, and all claimed elements and the structural relationships therebetween have been more positively and more clearly recited. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-8 be approved and entered. Still further, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1-8 are in full compliance with all of the requirements of 35 USC 112, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 thereunder be withdrawn.

In addition, new claims 10-13 have been added to recite further combinations of the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention disclosed in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 10-13 be approved and entered.

Claim 9 (an independent claim) has been canceled, without prejudice.

CLAIM FEE

Attached hereto is a check in the amount of \$234.00 to cover the Patent Office Fee for three additional independent claims. Since independent claim 9 has been canceled, and since new independent claims 10-13 have been added, the application now contains a total of six independent claims. Authorization is given to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Account No. 06-1378.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,632,002 ("Hashimoto et al"). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1-8 as amended hereinabove as well as with respect to new claims 10-13.

Hashimoto et al discloses a speech recognition interface which manipulates, by speech, an application program executed on a computer. More specifically, according to the system of

Hashimoto et al, a plurality of application programs are connected to a speech recognition interface and a recognition target vocabulary is specified for each application program. When an application program is started, the recognition target vocabulary peculiar to the application program is set in response to a request from the application program. When the recognition target vocabulary is set, the speech input to the application program is recognized in accordance with the set recognition target vocabulary to thereby manipulate the application program in response to the recognized result. In other words, Hashimoto et al discloses a system which recognizes a speech command and manipulates the computer in accordance with the recognized result. Namely, the system of Hashimoto et al recognizes a speech command input as an instruction to the application program with respect to the computer. Hashimoto et al, however, does not convert the speech data into text data.

By contrast, according to the claimed present invention, a speech control apparatus is provided with a speech recognition function and a document conversion function can be shared with a plurality of terminal units. In order to implement this feature, the plurality of units are connected to the speech control apparatus through a network and the speech control apparatus recognizes the speech data from the terminal units, converts the recognized result into the document data, and generates a predetermined document format.

It is respectfully submitted that Hashimoto et al only discloses a technique for recognizing speech commands and performing computer processes in response to the recognized speech commands. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Hashimoto et al does not disclose, and does not at all render obvious, the technique of the claimed present invention whereby a document data is obtained with a predetermined format from input speech data and terminal units are connected to a speech control apparatus through a network to obtain the document data from the speech data.

Amended claims 1-8 and new claims 10-13 variously recite the elements of the present invention which enable elimination of the conventional necessity of providing sophisticated speech recognition functions in the environment in the terminal unit. That is, according to the claimed present invention, the terminal unit is only required to have the input and transmission functions with respect to the speech data. This contributes to the miniaturization of the terminal unit, and improves the portability of the terminal unit and enables the terminal unit to be effectively used at any time and any place throughout the network. In addition, as recited in amended claims 3 and 4, the input of the speech data can obtain document formats for E-mail and facsimiles so that a user can use the terminal very easily as compared to the conventional method of generating document data through key input operation. And still further, since, according

to the claimed present invention, the speech recognition and the document conversion operations are performed on the speech control apparatus side, the terminal unit can accept the provision of speech recognition functions having a practical precision which can easily be attained.

It is respectfully submitted that the above described claimed structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention simply cannot be achieved by, and are not at all rendered obvious by, the disclosure in Hashimoto et al. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed present invention as recited in amended claims 1-8 and new claims 10-13 patentably distinguishes over Hashimoto et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Still further, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed present invention also patentably distinguishes over all of the other publications cited by the Examiner. For example, Yoshida et al (USP 5,128,985) is merely directed toward a technique for recognizing speech data of a dialed number and collating the recognized result. Baji et al (USP 5,163,111) discloses recognition of speech data in combination with the use of image data relating to the movement of the lips of a speaker. Ishii et al (USP 5,182,765) is directed toward a collation technique of a recognition result of input speech. Abe (USP 5,280,520) discloses a technique for enabling a call to a telephone or facsimile on an ISDN network using speech and data. Sawada (USP 5,465,326) is

directed toward a technique for communicating document data in which text data and image data are mixed through a network. Takebayashi et al (USP 5,557,165) discloses a technique for simultaneously displaying speech data and corresponding image data. Katsumaru et al discloses a speech mail server system in which a LAN terminal and an answerphone can be shared. And Hirotani (USP 5,758,322) discloses what is referred to as an agent search technique for sequentially searching various databases connected to a network in response to a search request from a terminal connected to the network. It is respectfully submitted, however, that none of these references discloses, teaches or suggests the claimed features of the technique of the present invention whereby speech data is recognized, converted into document data, and shaped into a designated document format.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed present invention as recited in amended claims 1-8 and new claims 10-13 patentably distinguishes over all of the prior art references of record, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: PTO-1449

The Examiner has still not supplied an initialled copy of the form PTO-1449 filed March 12, 1998. For the Examiner's convenience, attached hereto is a photocopy of the form PTO-1449 filed March 12, 1998, along with a copy of the return receipt

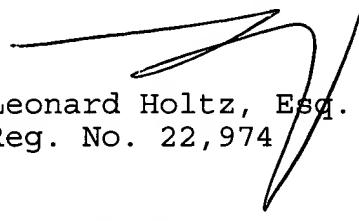
postcard evidencing receipt thereof by the Patent Office. It is again respectfully requested that an initialled copy of the form PTO-1449 filed March 12, 1998 be supplied to complete the record.

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Entry of the amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of the application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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